New Technology for Disposal of Waste

836. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come up with any new technology for treatment, processing and disposal of Urban and Industrial waste;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) whether it will help improve the wastes management practices besides augmenting decentralized power generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources is implementing the National Programme for Energy Recovery from Urban and Industrial Wastes for promotion of projects based on various new technologies such as biomethanation, pyrolysis/gasification and combustion for processing and disposal of wastes. These technologies are bases on bio-chemical and thermochemical processes.

(c) Besides generation of power, application of waste-to-energy technologies helps in improving waste management by treating wastes and reducing their quantities for final disposal.

Electrification of Villages through Renewable Energy Sources

837. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister ofNON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government propose to provide power connection to all villages through renewable energy sources to attain sustainable development goal; and

(b) the investments and technology efforts made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) There are about 80,000 unelectrified villages in the country. Out of these about 18,000 villages are, believed to be in remote and difficult areas which cannot be electrified through extension of the conventional grid. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources proposes to electrify all these villages through renewable energy sources by the year 2012. The Ministry accordingly initiated a new programme for village electrification in the year 2001 -02. A target for electrifying 5,000 such villages has been fixed for the Tenth Plan period. Renewable energy systems like solar photovoltaic systems and power plants, small hydro units and biomass gasifiers, which use the locally available renewable energy sources, are the most suitable options for electrification of remote villages and hamlets. Such systems have already been developed indigenously and are being deployed in these villages and hamlets under the Ministry's programme. An expenditure of about rs. 20 crores has been incurred by the Ministry on this programme during 2001-02. An amount of Rs. 75 crores has been provided for this in the budget for 2002-03.